



Borough of Penzance

THE
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR



FOR THE YEAR

1952.

The MAYOR, ALDERMEN and COUNCILLORS,

BOROUGH of PENZANCE.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before commenting on the points to which I should particularly like to draw the attention of all, I feel it right to express publicly my gratitude to the Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Farr, for the most able way he carried on the job during the illness of the Medical Officer of Health. It is no light matter to be pitch-forked suddenly into very considerable municipal activity, and the fact that the department functioned so smoothly is a definite tribute to him.

Matters of importance were:-

(1) The publication of the report of the Consultants on the Drift Water Scheme and I have mentioned below the strange case of further delayed action on it.

(2) Towards the end of the year the very difficult matter of dealing with unsatisfactory families in Council houses was not improved by the County Council's action in declaring that they would take no further responsibility in providing temporary accommodation for such families if evicted.

(3) A Joint Committee on cremation made some progress on this most important matter but unfortunately the difficulties of obtaining a site have still not been resolved.

(4) The problem of the sewerage of Newlyn was aggravated by an undoubted nuisance which occurred in the harbour below high water mark though this related to only one of the thirteen outfalls discharging into that harbour.

(5) Good progress was made in housing but the bad and derelict sites in the centre of the town still remain and can only be dealt with by clearance and building of flats.

(6) Another is the attention now being given to the cost of the National Health Service. It is a standing disgrace to the country that was the world pioneer in Public Health that only 7% of the money available for the National Health Service is devoted to the prevention of disease, while locally Health departments everywhere are the Aunt Sallies for cheap-jack economy.

The time is now more than ripe for an extensive overhaul and re-organisation of Local Government. Parish pump oratory has regularly a grand opportunity of belabouring the control that Whitehall, and especially the Treasury exercise over Local Government, but at the same time everything is done locally to pass the burden of cost from the rates to the taxes. These village Hampdens seem quite unable to see that the more money the Government pays out for local matters, the more say is it going to have in the spending of it.

However, if the structure of Local Government is revised as it should be and a ruthless elimination of small District Councils is carried out, it will still be possible to have reasonably sized District Councils which while being of sufficient financial stability to undertake many of the functions now exercised by the County Councils, will yet be sufficiently close and friendly to their electors that the public will not get the feeling of being governed

by remote control as is so often now the case.

I have mentioned the help given by Dr. Farr for so many months, but I am sure that he will be the first to acknowledge the help given by the Council and by the Chief Officers of the other Departments and their staffs. To the staff of the Health Department, we both owe a debt of gratitude for the splendid way they carried on.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. K. DUNSCOMBE.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH.

Area - 3,578 acres.

Population - 19,940. (Registrar-General's estimate, Mid-year 1952).

Rateable Value - £133,805. Product of Penny Rate - £532. 10s. 7d.

No. of Livebirths:	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	146	125	271
Illegitimate	9	12	21
Rate per 1,000 population: 14.6			

No. of Stillbirths:	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 total births: 20.1			

No. of Deaths:	Male	Female	Total
	146	134	280
Rate per 1,000 population: 14.0			

No. of Infant Deaths:	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	6	4	10
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 live births: 34.2			

Maternal Deaths - Nil.

COMMENT.

Compared with 1951 the rate for live births shows a slight increase while the death rate has fallen somewhat. The principal causes of death are still heart disease, cancer, and diseases of the blood vessels supplying the brain. It should be remembered that as we are all living longer, these three causes, which mainly are diseases of later life are necessarily prominent.

Infant Mortality. I am pleased to record that this rate again shows a reduction from last year, but once more I must add the warning that because of the small numbers involved, large fluctuations are inevitable. As might be expected most of these infant deaths occurred in later months, and those from enteritis or infections such as pneumonia or bronchitis are almost certainly avoidable. Since no fee is payable for those on a Doctor's National Health Service list, there is no excuse for delay in asking him to call.

SECTION B

CAUSES OF DEATH

	M.	F.	Total.
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	1	2
Tuberculosis, other sites	1	-	1
Syphilitic diseases	2	-	2
Diphtheria	1	1	2
Whooping Cough	1	1	2
Other infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	1	1
Cancer of stomach	10	7	17
Cancer of lung, bronchus	4	1	5
Cancer of breast	-	3	3
Cancer of uterus	-	3	3
Cancer of other sites	11	15	26
Diabetes	1	3	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	17	15	32
Coronary disease, angina	21	11	32
Hypertension with heart disease	3	8	11
Other heart disease	29	23	52
Other circulatory disease	6	8	14
Influenza	-	1	1
Pneumonia	4	3	7
Bronchitis	3	2	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	2	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	-	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	2	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	2	5
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	-	4
Congenital malformations	2	-	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	16	28
Accident(Motor)	1	-	1
Other accidents	2	4	6
Suicide	2	-	2
Homicide and operations of war	-	1	1
All causes	146	134	280

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.	Total
1. Heart Disease	53	42	95
2. Cancer	25	29	54
3. Vascular lesions of nervous system	17	15	32

(A comparison with previous years appears in Appendix C)

SECTION C

CLIMATE 1952

	Dry	Wet	Max. Degrees	Min.	Rain Ins.	Sunshine Hrs.
January	43.3	41.4	48.0	39.0	6.10	68.9
February	44.1	42.0	50.0	39.3	1.70	72.1
March	47.9	47.0	51.0	44.0	3.98	96.6
April	51.5	48.9	56.1	43.9	3.76	186.5
May	58.4	55.4	63.0	50.6	2.06	224.2
June	60.9	58.3	61.1	49.1	1.33	187.5
July	65.5	60.6	69.0	54.0	1.40	181.5
August	61.6	61.4	69.2	56.7	3.57	207.9
September	58.1	54.5	65.1	50.7	4.29	174.4
October	54.5	52.7	57.7	49.5	4.42	107.2
November	47.9	46.4	51.3	43.6	6.60	74.7
December	45.9	43.9	49.5	40.9	4.51	65.1

Yearly averages for rain and sun.	1952	Average
Rainfall	43.72 ins.	48.07 ins.
Sunshine	1646 4 hrs.	1733.6 hrs.

During the year no snow was experienced, the night minimum fell below 32 degrees (to 30 degrees) on two occasions, fog was experienced on four days and there were 52 days without sun.

I am indebted to the Borough Meteorologist, Mr. J. H. I. Cable A.L.A. for the above figures.

SECTION D

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(1) Water Supply

The following is an estimate of houses (a) without a water supply in the Borough, (b) those with a standpipe supply, and (c) with mains supply.

	(a) No Public Supply	(b) From Standpipe	(c) Main Supply
1951	28	82	60 25
1952	28	80	61 21

The above figures are supplied by the courtesy of the Borough Engineer

The number of samples taken for analysis was as follows:-

Samples	Drift	Boscathnoe	Others	Private
	Domestic	Works	Domestic	Domestic
Raw	-	-	1	3
Treated	29	4	38	1
Chemical	-	1	-	-
Plumbo-	-	-	-	-
Solvency	-	1	-	-

(i) Boscathnoe. The supply from this source was on several occasions quite heavily contaminated. In one instance at least, it was due to a silly mistake which could have had serious results, whereby the water from the reservoir was not shut off while it was being cleaned.

Preparations were being actively pushed forward by the end of the year for the installation of a satisfactory purification plant and it is hoped that the Ministry will give an early starting date.

(ii). Gulval. This source also gave unsatisfactory samples on five occasions. I have pointed out previously that the supply is only treated when it consists of Drift water and also the dangerous lack of covering of the reservoir. It is high time this was put right.

(iii). Drift Scheme. This is unfortunately lagging and in many aspects has shown Local Government in the guise of small authorities, at its worst. The long-awaited report of the Consulting Engineers was received in March but although the goodwill and approval of the County Council and Ministry of Housing and Local Government are absolutely essential, nothing was done to see that this report was presented to them at the earliest possible moment and it was not till nearly the end of the year that representatives of Messrs. Lapworths visited the area and met the District Councils. As a result of the conferences, suggestions were made as to the phasing of the works so as to ensure that the most remunerative work was started first. While the Penzance Borough Council must take the major portion of blame for this further delay of nearly 9 months, the two other District Councils should have seen to it that something was being done since they for the most part are the have-nots.

It is indeed an almost tragic thought now that the commencement of this Scheme is so near, that the very serious financial position in which all Local Authorities find themselves, may yet endanger the Scheme. However, as far as this Borough is concerned, it must be understood that in any drought year serious restrictions will be essential until the Drift Scheme comes into operation.

(iv). Fluorine Content. In November the Council were asked to allow samples to be taken to ascertain the fluorine content of the supply, in view of the reported fact that decayed teeth in children are much less in areas where this is moderately high. The samples were examined by the Government Chemist but only Drift supplies were asked for and tested despite the fact that half the town supply comes from Boscathnoe. This has already been pointed out pretty plainly, and no rational conclusions can be drawn from such results as have been obtained.

(2) Sewerage.

(i) A considerable amount of trouble occurred during the year especially with the sewer outfalls in the Newlyn Harbour culminating in the threat of statutory action against the Council by the Port Health Authority.

Although attention was particularly directed to one outfall which discharges so high up that at neap tides it is not even washed by the sea, it is obvious that as I have mentioned several times before this is only one part of the undoubted nuisance which exists both in Newlyn and to a considerably lesser extent at Mousehole.

The problem is how best to remedy it. It is a fairly easy and relatively inexpensive matter to deal with the one outfall engaging particularly the attention of the Port Health Authority, but it is entirely another matter to deal with the whole problem

since all the sewerage of the town is disposed of by sea outfalls. The cost of picking up all these and pumping to a completely new outfall beyond Kemyell Point would be stupendous and far beyond the resources of the town.

We are thus left with the problem that more and more houses are discharging sewage into old and inadequate sewer outfalls in an extensively used harbour area, the position is getting worse each year, and each year the cost of any scheme to deal with it properly gets greater.

(ii). A general question of moment to the inhabitants of the town is that at Sheffield and at Gulval the Council have constructed at considerable expense a proper sewerage system, but some people in each place still expect the Health Department to continue to collect night soil from the houses they are unwilling to connect to the sewer. The Council should consider whether it is not possible to avoid this disgusting duty.

(iii). From what has been said previously it follows that attention has necessarily been distracted from the villages of Paul, the Gurnick Estate in Newlyn, and Tredavoe.

As far as the former is concerned, since the septic tank now receives also the drainage from Sheffield, the plain fact is that it is trying to do far too much and therefore cannot function efficiently. The remedy is to continue the sewer to Mousehole and do away with the tank. The Gurnick Estate is almost the lost village. Here the houses are situated in the hill above Newlyn, the road is not made up and each house has a cesspool. Many of these are full and the overflow goes down the road. They should be connected with the sewer. At Tredavoe the problem is to decide whether a small treatment works or a long run of sewer is the cheaper.

Each year these matters are considered and then thrown to the financial wolves and nothing is done.

(3) Infectious Diseases.

(a) Diphtheria. This year six cases occurred, all in non-immunised children, and two unfortunately proved fatal, thus emphasising all too plainly the almost mathematical certainty of which I wrote last year. It has been well said that you can only have diphtheria if you want to and it illustrates the extent to which the disease has been reduced throughout the country. At the same time, I must state with all the emphasis at my command that in Penzance, for some reason which is still not clear we have a most virulent type of germ which is all too ready to attack the unprotected.

Immunisation proceeded steadily and may well be assisted by the County Council's Scheme for the combined immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough.

(b) Whooping Cough. This is now a much more deadly disease than diphtheria as respects young children and the County Council having obtained the approval of the Ministry of Health decided to offer immunisation against this also. If generally accepted as its equivalent against diphtheria has been, a material reduction in the numbers and severity of cases should result. Anyone who has seen a severe case of whooping cough in a young child would agree that it should be spared this experience if possible, but the figures in Appendix A show that a very considerable number of cases occurred during the year.

(4) Housing.

(a) Steady progress was made at the Alverton Estate and a total of 69 Council and 25 private enterprise houses were completed. At the same time the Council took the long-hoped for step and decided

that blocks of flats should be built at Prospect Place and Navy Inn Court. This is the only way to properly develop the congested and derelict or slum sites in the Borough and avoid taking good agricultural land.

(b) Points Scheme Revision. Since nothing in the social services is or should be static, a revision of the points scheme was undertaken. This was pretty drastic, but the result has been to throw up into even more prominence those persons who really need a house. The new scheme is given in Appendix D.

(c) Costs. This has been referred to before but it cannot too often be said that each Council house built carries a subsidy of £35 -12s. for 60 years most of which comes from the taxpayer.

It is therefore right surely that those who are earning sufficient should, if they have to live in Council houses help towards paying the heavy subsidy whether this involves a means test or not! The cost of building is so high with resulting high rents and rates that very shortly we may reach the position that the Council may have to take the very unfortunate decision that neither it nor the prospective tenants can afford a new house.

It is all the more regrettable therefore that no scheme has been devised by the Government to prevent the further deterioration of older houses. Last year I suggested that action could be taken by the landlord under Section 20, Housing Act, 1936. The standards laid down by the regulations issued under the 1949 Act are in my opinion impossibly high and because of this, this part of the Act has utterly failed to achieve its object and should be scrapped. Some other method must therefore be tried if we are not to have on our hands a slum clearance programme of staggering proportions which in fact would never be carried out since in many cases the displaced tenants that would have to be re-housed would be quite unable to pay the rents.

(d) Slum Clearance. Six orders for demolition were made under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, and three undertakings accepted during the year. So far no method has been evolved to deal with those cases in which an undertaking not to re-let has been given and the premises vacated. No repairs naturally are done, no rates are paid, and the building becomes more and more derelict.

(e) Housing of Old People. It is hoped that many of the proposed one-bedroom flats at Prospect Place will be let to older couples but still there will remain a large number of old persons living alone for whom a bed-sitting room is all that is needed. This, however, is really part of the tremendous social problem of dealing with the great numbers of old persons for whom the country will have to make provision in the next 30 years to which I refer now.

(5) Care of the Aged.

This is primarily a social problem and not a medical one. The main object should be to keep the old person in his or her own home, because first of all, they generally prefer it, and secondly, it is much cheaper for the State.

It therefore involves the co-operation of voluntary organisations to provide meals on wheels and other arrangements to ensure that the old person is not left too long on his own, adequate domestic help through the Home Help Service, ancillary services such as chiropody, the assistance of the Local Authority in the provision of bungalows or other suitable housing, adequate Part III accommodation by the Local Health Authority, and the provision of "half-way houses" by interaction between the Local Health Authority and the Regional Hospital Board, (a) for those who can so easily become too infirm for any Part III accommodation and (b) for the slight and developing cases of senile

dementia so as to avoid the necessity for certification which on account of the demand for beds in mental hospitals should be the very last resort. Finally of course, there are hospital beds to be provided in considerable numbers for the really infirm which involves in itself, an immense problem in staffing.

This is a formidable list and lacks the essential constituent.....
.....money!!! The facts, however, must be faced, that at least until 1973 we are up against the cold hard reality that the population is steadily ageing and that by that year not less than 20% (in Cornwall at any rate) of the population will be people aged 65 years or over. This means nearly 70,000 persons in this county alone.

These facts stagger the imagination and serve to show what a stupendous problem it will become. The task has not been helped by the action of the County Council in limiting the number of Home Helps or by their unwillingness and lack of drive in extending Part III accommodation.

As a happy contrast, the Geriatric department at the Barncoose Hospital of the Regional Hospital Board is doing a very great deal in the rehabilitation of the aged and has shown a constructive approach which is a challenge to all the other bodies concerned.

While as already stated the whole aim should be to keep the older folks happy and contented in their own homes, I am sorry to say that in my experience since the passing of the National Assistance Act and the resultant relieving of the responsibility of the family there has been a lessening in the willingness of relatives to look after their older relations. Obviously, this must be encouraged and it would be better and cheaper to pay them rather than to arrange for any form of institutional accommodation however homely it may seem to be, as the cost per person is vastly different in the two cases. However, if family ties are loosened as they undoubtedly have been, in the last resort it becomes a matter of how much the country can afford to spend on its old people.

(6) National Assistance Act.

In addition to the case on which I have reported in two previous annual reports, it was necessary to bring another person - again an old woman - before the Court and obtain an order for hospital treatment. So far a continuation of this particular order has not been necessary, but it is far from improbable that another application may have to be made.

I have mentioned before the absurdity of the necessity for repeated applications in an obviously long-stay case and it is amazing that nothing further has been done centrally, since our experience in this Borough must be repeated many times in other areas. This sort of repetition is simply bringing the law into disrepute.

(7) Clean Food.

More and more attention is being paid to this and murmurs of the introduction of a clean food bill are frequent. It should, however, be remembered that whatever laws or regulations are made, primarily this is a human problem as seldom does food become lethal except by human agencies. The idea, therefore, is so to educate the management and staffs of all types of catering establishments that risks will not be run.

One point is that now there is very little, if any, excuse for managements not installing modern equipment and improving their kitchens. The whole aim should be to invite the public to inspect the preparation of the food they are expected to eat. At the present time the attitude is all too often the very opposite and the health departments meet with opposition to suggestions for improvement.

The simplest and most effective method of dealing with the whole question is by the licensing of the owners or occupiers of premises where food is prepared or sold for human consumption. Model Licence conditions could be drawn up by the Ministry of Food and breaches of the licence could then result in its suspension or withdrawal. Registration is not enough. Much more use also should be made of refrigerated glass cabinets for the display of meat and vegetables etc., and in general a more modern outlook must be inculcated into producers and food handlers either by education or in the last resort by force. In certain cities in the U.S.A. it is possible for restaurants to be compulsorily closed for not carrying out instructions and we may yet have to come to this position in this country.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Public Health Department,
Municipal Buildings,
Penzance.

The MAYOR, ALDERMEN, and COUNCILLORS,
BOROUGH of PENZANCE.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you the section of the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1952, relating to the work of the Sanitary Department and in doing so wish to place on record my appreciation of the conscientious work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors and clerical staff and by the men employed in the Cleansing Service. Without their assistance and co-operation it would not be possible to present such a satisfactory report on the year's work.

A summary of this work is contained in the table of visits and inspections which forms Appendix F of the report.

I am indebted to the Divisional Inspector of the County Council's Weights and Measures Department for the table which appears as Appendix H and shows the record of samples taken in the Borough under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Medical Officer of Health and his Deputy, other Chief Officers and Members of the Health Committee and of the Council generally for the interest shown in the work of the Department throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. T. HARPER.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

(1) FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION.

This aspect of Public Health work has received more and more publicity each year since the war and it is all to the good that the general public is growing food hygiene conscious. The public can be assured that the department is always available to deal with any complaints or enquiries appertaining to articles of food and in the year under review considerable attention has been given to the many aspects of food hygiene as a study of the various tables will show.

The department is responsible amongst other matters for the inspection of almost all the meat produced not only for the Borough, but for the other three areas forming the West Penwith peninsula, and it will be appreciated that to do this as efficiently as it is undoubtedly being done, means the almost full-time employment of one of the department's inspectors and a considerable amount of overtime work is involved by reason of the slaughtering which takes place during the evenings and at week-ends.

One wonders whether, with the announcement of the Government's policy on the future of slaughtering which involves a degree of centralisation, consideration will be given to some form of reimbursement to local authorities for the expense incurred in carrying out meat inspection for other areas.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

Once again it is possible to report an improvement in results of samples of ice cream. Not once during the year did a sample fall below Grade 3 and 69% of all samples returned Grade 1.

No. of Samples taken.....	84
No. returned in Grade 1.....	58
No. returned in Grade 2.....	12
No. returned in Grade 3.....	14
No. returned in Grade 4.....	Nil

Fat content tests were carried out on 26 of the samples with satisfactory results. All were above the prescribed minimum standard.

It is gratifying to note that the time spent in discussions with the traders and on inspections of premises has shown such effective results since the Ice Cream(Heat Treatment) Regulations came into force in 1947. It is only fair to record that this position could only have been reached by the whole-hearted co-operation of the traders concerned.

Milk & Dairies Regulations.

Equally satisfactory are the results of milk samples taken during the year. All sources of supply are sampled at least once per month and only one source failed twice during the year, the others had a completely clear record or only one failure of the Methylene Blue Test. It can be said without fear of contradiction that never before have such excellent results been achieved.

<u>Samples taken</u>		<u>No. which failed</u>	<u>% failures</u>
		<u>Methylene Blue Test</u>	
Designated	53	3	5.7%
Non-Designated	37	4	10.8%

Clean Food Campaign.

In a Borough of this description a reputation can be made or marred by the reports which visitors make as a result of their stay in the area and considerable attention is therefore given to conditions in hotels, restaurants and guest houses. Visits to this type of premises are a routine duty of a member of the staff, and the department co-operates with the Publicity department in investigating the very occasional complaints which may arise. It has been suggested that a system of vetting of premises might with advantage be introduced, before accepting would-be advertisers in the Town Guide.

(2) FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

Action taken under the Acts to secure provision of sanitary accommodation focussed attention on the deficiencies in the sewerage system in certain parts of the Borough. This failure to provide and maintain an adequate sewer may very well have the effect of limiting the development of light industries in the area. Although the cost of constructing sewers, admittedly high in these days, is a factor requiring very careful consideration, the possibility of bringing new industries to the Borough with a consequent increase in rateable value should not be overlooked. Judicious spending may very well prove of benefit to the community as a whole both financially and from the standpoint of increased employment.

Apart from action taken, as indicated above, only minor defects fell to be dealt with under the Factories Acts and the position is summarised in Appendix E.

(3) REFUSE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL.

No major change in the scavenging service was made during 1952, but the deliberations of a certain body brought particular attention to the question of costs. It cannot be denied that cleansing costs are high, but this is attributable almost solely to the stringent terms of the Agreement governing the use of the site at Eastern Green for refuse disposal. The cost of scraping soil from building sites, and its transport to Eastern Green and the final spreading over the completed tip, has proved prohibitive and at the end of the year consideration was being given to finding other sites less costly to operate. Apart from the question of cost, the time is fast approaching when soil will not be available for this purpose, so that tipping at Eastern Green cannot continue in accordance with the terms of the Agreement. It is to be regretted that the project, once started, could not have proceeded until the whole of the low-lying area had been reclaimed.

On the subject of economies forced on the department in an effort to reduce costs, it may not be generally appreciated to what extent cuts have been made and it is as well that a note of warning be sounded here on the danger of practising economy at the expense of efficiency. With more than 600 additional premises to be visited weekly, there are 5 loaders less employed now than in 1937 and transport has been reduced.

Since the war the number of premises has grown considerably and the open development of large housing estates has rendered collection of house refuse much more difficult. If the Council's housing activities continue it may be necessary to increase the staff to cope with the extra demand.

For the benefit of the statisticians it is recorded that 6,350 tons of refuse were collected during the year at a cost of £7,630 and disposed of by controlled tipping at Eastern Green.

The tip was also utilised by other departments of the Corporation and to a small extent by private individuals, but no record of the weight of material handled is available. The all-in cost of disposal at the dump amounted to £4,344.

Receipts for the removal of trade refuse and for private use of the dump amounted to £192.

(4) HOUSING.

It is regretted that it is still impossible to report any major activity under the Housing Acts. The time does not yet appear to be opportune for resuming the slum clearance work which came to a halt with the outbreak of war in 1939.

Very few properties were dealt with under Section 9 or Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 and the policy of dealing with defects under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, continued to operate throughout the year.

Much of the housing work arose in connection with the Council's Points Scheme, in the investigation of claims for points for bad housing conditions and close liaison has existed between the Housing and Sanitary Departments in this connection.

(5) RODENT CONTROL.

One full-time Rodent Operative was employed during the year. Methods of treatment were strictly in accordance with Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries recommendations and included poisoning and trapping.

No charges are made for the treatment of dwelling-houses.

In addition to treatment for surface infestation, two treatments of the sewers of the Borough were carried out and also a 10% "Test Bait" of the whole system. Sixty-six manholes were baited.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during 1952:-

	Local Authority	Dwelling- houses	Agri- cultural	All other including business & industrial	Total
No. of properties inspected.	37	133	1	148	319
No. of properties found to be infest- ed.	39	135	1	134	309
No. of properties treated by Local Authority.	37	133	-	144	314

(6) DISINFECTION & DISINFESTATION OF PREMISES, ETC.

Premises treated following cases of infectious diseases have been fumigated with formaldehyde vapour and bedding from the same dealt with in the steam disinfectors at the West Cornwall Hospital by arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board.

A number of houses were treated for flea infestation. Gammexane smoke generators or powder being used.

One case of bug infestation was dealt with. This occurred in a van-load of furniture and Gammexane smoke generators were used.

(7) SANITATION.

The Medical Officer of Health has made reference to the new sewers provided in the Paul and Gulval areas, and to the lack of response on the part of owners in carrying out the conversion of earth and pail closets to the water carriage system.

This is particularly evident in the village of Sheffield where many of the houses are tenanted, and at low rents. It may be that owners do not feel that the permitted increase is sufficient return for the initial outlay in carrying out the work of conversion.

During the year under review the number of conversions carried out in all areas totalled 20, but at Gulval and Sheffield many remain to be done.

APPENDIX A

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1952 (Corrected Notifications)

Disease	Penzance	West Penwith	St. Ives	St. Just
Scarlet Fever	22	31	8	-
Whooping Cough	74	32	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis- Paralytic	2	1	1	-
Acute Poliomyelitis Non-Paralytic	1	-	-	-
Measles	27	10	4	-
Diphtheria	6	2	1	-
Acute Encephalitis	3	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	3	18	2	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	1	-
Acute Pneumonia	-	3	-	-
Rheumatic Arthritis	-	1	-	-

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION 1952

Area	Number of Children who completed a full course of immunisation in 1952			Number of Children Receiving Refresher Doses
	Under 5	5-14	Total	
Penzance	279	67	346	890
St. Ives	103	15	118	146
St. Just	37	-	37	14
West Penwith	253	49	302	242

APPENDIX B
TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS & DEATHS 1952.

Nos. on Reg at	1-5	5-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-65	over 65	TOTAL
31.	12.	52.							

Penance	79	-	4	5	2	2(1)	8(1)	1	22(2)
Pul.M									
Pul.F	54	-	1	4(1)	1(1)	-	-	-	6(2)
Non-Pul.M	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Non-Pul.F	9	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
West Penwith									
Pul.M	58	1	1	3	3	2(1)	3	1	14(1)
Pul.F	37	1	1	1	4	-	1	2(1)	9(1)
Non-Pul.M	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Pul.F	14	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
St. Just									
Pul.M.	27	-	-	-	-	(1)	1(3)	2(2)	3(6)
Pul.F	16	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Non-Pul.M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Pul.F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
St. Ives									
Pul.M	28	-	-	-	-	1(1)	(1)	(1)	1(2)
Pul.F	18	-	-	-	-	(1)	-	1	1(1)
Non-Pul.M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Pul.F	6	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2

STATE	TOTAL NOTIFICATIONS	TOTAL DEATHS
Alabama	10	1
Alaska	0	0
Arizona	1	0
Arkansas	1	0
California	1	0
Colorado	0	0
Connecticut	0	0
Delaware	0	0
District of Columbia	0	0
Florida	1	0
Georgia	1	0
Hawaii	0	0
Idaho	0	0
Illinois	1	0
Indiana	1	0
Iowa	1	0
Kansas	1	0
Kentucky	1	0
Louisiana	1	0
Maine	1	0
Maryland	1	0
Massachusetts	1	0
Michigan	1	0
Minnesota	1	0
Mississippi	1	0
Missouri	1	0
Montana	1	0
Nebraska	1	0
Nevada	1	0
New Hampshire	1	0
New Jersey	1	0
New Mexico	1	0
New York	1	0
North Carolina	1	0
North Dakota	1	0
Ohio	1	0
Oklahoma	1	0
Oregon	1	0
Pennsylvania	1	0
Rhode Island	1	0
South Carolina	1	0
South Dakota	1	0
Tennessee	1	0
Texas	1	0
Utah	1	0
Vermont	1	0
Virginia	1	0
Washington	1	0
West Virginia	1	0
Wisconsin	1	0
Wyoming	1	0
TOTAL	65	16

APPENDIX C COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Penzance Year	1949	1950	1951	1952
Population	20,080	20,210	20,030	19,940
Total Deaths	289	335	312	280
Principal Causes of Death:				
Heart Disease	86	132	94	95
Cancer	53	56	52	54
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	35	39	37	32
Pneumonia	8	18	15	7
T. B. Resp.	5	11	8	2
Other Circulatory Diseases	23	21	14	14
Infant Mortality Rate	45.75	70.0	40.4	34.2

APPENDIX D

HOUSING

The following table gives details of houses under control of the Council as at the end of the year 1952:-

	Occupied	Under Repair	Allocated	Awaiting Allocation	Total
Parc Wartha	58	—	—	—	58
Penalverne	169	—	—	1	170
Gwavas	242	—	—	—	242
Treneere	396	—	—	1	397
Temporary Bungalows (Treneere and Cherry Gardens)	49	—	—	1	50
Alverton	272	—	—	2	274
Mousehole	9	—	—	—	9
Misc. Tenancies	35	—	—	—	35
Finance Properties	32	—	—	—	32
Quarterly & Monthly Tenancies	13	—	—	—	13
Requisitioned Tenancies	37	—	—	3	40
	1312	—	—	8	1320

Number of persons who completed applications under the Points Scheme at end of December, 1952 - 512.

No. of Houses built by the Council	No. of Houses built by Private Enterprise
---------------------------------------	--

69

25

POINTS SCHEDULE

APPLICANTS WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO AWARDS UNDER ITEMS 1, 2, 3 and 4, ONLY WHERE THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES AND CONDITIONS OBTAIN IN THE BOROUGH OF PENZANCE.

	<u>Points Award</u>
1. <u>STATUTORY OVERCROWDING</u> (Applicable only to applicants who are tenants protected by the Rent Acts.)	
Up to and including 1 unit	6
plus 3 points for every additional $\frac{1}{2}$ -unit.	
2. <u>ILL-HEALTH AND PHYSICAL DISABILITY</u>	
(a) Serious illness or disability in applicant's family	6 - 12
(b) Less severe illness or disability in applicant's family	1 - 5
(c) Illness or disability in applicant's present household with indirect effect on applicant or family	1 - 3
3. <u>INSANITARY HOUSES</u>	
(a) <u>Clearance, Closing or Demolition Orders.</u>	
(i) Where the applicant is the tenant or sub-tenant of the house or part of the house at the date of the Order	20
(ii) Where the applicant is the tenant or sub-tenant of the house or part of the house at the date upon which an Undertaking is given under the provisions of Section 11(3) of the Housing Act, 1936, or where the applicant entered into occupation under licence after the date of the Order or Undertaking	15
(iii) Where the applicant is sharing accommodation in a house at the date of an Order or Undertaking	10
(b) <u>Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936</u>	
(i) Where the applicant is, at the date of service of Notice, the tenant of the house or of that part of the house affected by the Notice	8
(ii) Where the applicant is sharing accommodation in a house at the date of service of Notice	2
4. <u>BEDROOM DEFICIENCY</u>	
Based on a standard which assumes that a separate bedroom is needed for each of the following groups:-	
(i) man and wife;	
(ii) two children up to the age of ten years, or one child between the ages of one and ten years;	
(iii) one or two unmarried males;	
(iv) one or two unmarried females;	
(v) a person whom the Medical Officer of Health considers should sleep in a room alone.	
No single child under one year of age shall be assessed for points under this item.	
For each bedroom by which the applicant's accommodation falls short of the standard	
	10
except where the deficiency is in respect of one child of either sex between the ages of one and five years, when the award shall be	
	5

	<u>Points Award</u>
5. <u>LACK OF SEPARATE HOME</u>	
(a) Applicant and family sharing with relatives or occupying furnished accommodation (Plus 3 for each child under 16 yrs. of age)	10
(b) Applicant and family occupying unfurnished rooms but sharing kitchen	10
6. <u>REGISTRATION</u>	
(a) For each complete year of registration	1
(b) In addition, for a complete period of five years' registration since 1st April, 1945	2
TOTAL BASIC POINTS	<u> </u>
7. <u>BALANCING POINTS</u>	
(a) <u>National Service</u>	
For each complete year of service	1
(b) <u>Residence in the Borough</u>	
For each complete ten years' period of residence or domicile in the Borough	1
(Except where the total period of residence or domicile falls below 10 years, period of 7 years to be calculated as a complete period.)	
TOTAL BALANCING POINTS	<u> </u>

In arriving at the Final Assessment of Basic and Balancing points, one Basic Point is added in exchange for every complete five Balancing Points.

<u>Final Assessment</u>	
<u>Basic</u>	<u>Balancing</u>

APPENDIX E

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health, (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

<u>Premises</u>	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>In- spections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers prosecuted</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	53	96	1	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	89	92	7	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	8	-	-
<u>Total</u>	147	196	8	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.).	4	4	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.).	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temp. (S.3.).	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.).	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.).	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):-					
(a) insufficient	3	2	—	1	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	2	1	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	1	1	—	—	—
Total	11	9	—	1	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Out-work

Sections 110 and 111

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel, making, etc.	27	—	—	—	—	—
Total	27	—	—	—	—	—

APPENDIX F

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT

1.	Complaints received and attended to		178
2.	<u>Public Health Act, 1936.</u>		
	Drains inspected		132
	Tested water		35
	Tested smoke		8
	Drains defective		25
	Drains repaired		19
	New drains		9
	Drainage work in progress		39
	Water closets inspected		25
	Water closets defective		12
	Water closets repaired) or renewed }		13
	New Water Closets provided		12
	Earth/pail closets converted to water closets		9
	Cesspools abolished		1
	Eaves gutters and downspouts provided) } or repaired		
	Dampness abated		7
	Minor repairs effected		36
	Nuisances from keeping of animals abated		2
	Nuisances from accumulations abated		10
	Nuisances at workplaces abated		3
	Premises found to be verminous		12
	Treatments carried out		28
	Infectious diseases enquiries		84
	Premises disinfected		12
	Bedding and clothing disinfected		18
	Visits re. water supply		85
	Premises provided with new supply		2
	Water samples taken		159
	Visits re removal of refuse		24
	Visits to refuse tip		177
	Public Conveniences inspected		150
	Sanitary accommodation at licensed premises catering establishments and places of entertainment)		26
	Inspections re Offensive Trades		24
	Inspections of streams and watercourses		66
	Inspections of Camping sites		48
	General inspections of district		25
	Inspections of Nuisances carried out		390
3.	<u>Diseases of Animals Acts</u>		13
4.	<u>Housing Act.</u>		
	Inspection under Section 9		17
	Notices Served	Informal	2
	Unfit houses made fit		6
	Inspections under Section 11		40
	Inspections under Section 12		4
	Inspections under Section 25		25
	Premises found overcrowded		1
	Visits re application for council houses		95
	Miscellaneous inspections		136
5.	<u>Food and Drugs Act</u>		
	Food Preparing Premises		121
	Food stores and shops		720
	Fish markets, stalls and stores		68
	Restaurants and restaurant kitchens		184
	Licensed premises		3
	Ice cream premises		66
	Ice cream samples		84
	Bakehouses		52
	Visits to markets		385
	Visits to Fried fish shops		37
	Visits to slaughterhouses		2375
	Visits re feed poisoning		2

6. <u>Shops Act</u>	
<u>Routine Inspections</u>	87
7. <u>Factories Act.</u>	
<u>Routine Inspections</u>	154
Sanitary Accommodation	41
Means of escape	1
Outworkers premises	4
8. <u>Milk and Dairies Administration</u>	
<u>Inspections of dairies</u>	123
Milk samples taken	90
9. <u>Redent Control</u>	
Visits to dwelling-houses	95
Visits to business premises	184
Sewer treatments	2
10. <u>Miscellaneous Visits.</u>	336
11. <u>Notices (other than Housing Act)</u>	
(a) <u>Informal</u>	Served - 61
	Complied with - 46
(b) <u>Statutory</u>	Served - 3
	Complied with - 3

APPENDIX G

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Weight T. C. lbs.
Number killed	2071	993	2306	3774	437	
Number inspected	2071	993	2306	3774	437	
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	10	19	7	17	5	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	637	456	19	490	37	17 19 65
Percentage of the number inspected with disease other than tuberculosis	31.2	47.8	1.1	13.4	9.6	
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	28	54	1	—	5	31 4 16
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	209	235	—	—	12	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	11.4	29.1	0.04	—	3.9	
Total Weight						49 3 81

Note - Under the heading "Cattle excluding Cows" are included Bulls, Steers, heifers and Cow-heifers.

No. of visits to slaughterhouses2375.

OTHER FOOD REJECTED

	T.	C.	lbs.
Fish.....	1		96
26 Poultry.....			83
Vegetables.....	10		28
Bacon.....			39
Sugar.....			48
Cheese.....			54
Fresh Fruit.....	2		0
Dried Fruit.....	1		13
Cereals.....	8		95
Flour.....	4		4
Cake & Pudding Mixture.....	8		44
Rice Flour.....	2		28
Biscuits & Cake.....	3		81
Desiccated Coconut.....	1		27
Butter.....			8
Sausages & Black Puddings.....	1		31
5770 Canned Goods.....	3	5	53
353 Glass Packed Goods.....		2	5
Other miscellaneous goods.....		1	47
Total Weight.....	5	16	0

Total number of Condemnation Certificates issued in respect of meat and other foods - 1,809.

APPENDIX H

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

<u>Article Sampled.</u>	<u>Number taken.</u>	<u>Genuine.</u>	<u>Adulterated.</u>
Milk	44	44	
Butter	6	6	
Blancmange Powder	1	1	
Custard Powder	1	1	
Coffee	2	2	
Sausages	12	12	
Banana Curd	1	1	
Fish Cakes	3	3	
Ice Cream	5	4	1
Pepper	1	1	
Cocoa	1	1	
Drinking Chocolate	1	1	
Jam	2	2	
Lemon Cheese	1	1	
Jelly Crystals	2	2	
Marmalade	1	1	
Lemonade Powder	1	1	
Cooking Fat	3	3	
Tomato Flavour Soup	1	1	
Crab Meat	1	1	
Chocolate Blancmange	1	1	
Mincemeat	2	2	
Christmas Pudding	1	1	
Lemon Curd	2	2	
Malt Vinegar	1	1	
Orange Squash	1	1	
<hr/>			
TOTALS	98	97	1
<hr/>			

Particulars of Adulterated Samples.

Ice Cream. Formal. Deficient in fat. Manufacturer cautioned by the Clerk of the County Council. Further formal sample proved to be genuine.

